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EXAMINER

STEVENS, THOMAS H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2123

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/914,639

Applicant(s)

GIOLA ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas H. Stevens

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-66 were examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1,2,4-8,10-16,18-33,34-36,39-49,52-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (U.S. Patent 5,794,216 (1998)). Brown teaches a device for storing information about a plurality of houses, for access by an application program executed on a computer or other programmable apparatus (abstract).

Claim 1. A method for specifying upgrade options (column 6, lines 30-35) for a new building comprising the steps of scanning (column 3, lines 57-59) a floor plan of the building (column 5, lines 1-6) into a first computer to form a scanned floor plan; displaying the scanned floor plan upon the monitor of a second computer while simultaneously displaying a plurality of icons representative (column 6, lines 7-35) of a corresponding plurality of different upgrade options upon the monitor of the second computer, and selecting at least one of the available upgrade options and designating

where the upgrade option is to be placed in the building by placing the icons (column 6, lines 33-50) at corresponding location upon the displayed floor plan, and wherein the floor plan is automatically updated to incorporate the selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 33-50).

Claim 2. The method as recited in Claim 1 (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50), wherein the first computer and the second computer (column 5, lines 29-41) are the same computer.

Claim 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) wherein the step of displaying a plurality of icons comprises displaying of icons in a toolbox and the icons are placed by voice recognition and/or by dragging and dropping icons (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 5. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of adding a text comment to a dropped icon (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 6. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of compiling a list of selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 34-65).

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Claim 7. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of compiling a list of selected upgrade options and prices for the selected upgrade (column 5, lines 51-54; column 6, lines 34-65) options.

Claim 8. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of calculating a total price (column 5, lines 51-54) for the selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 34-65).

Claim 10. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of forming database of purchaser information (column 7, lines 47-61 with figure 13).

Claim 11. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of forming a database of purchaser information, the database comprising the name of the purchaser and the upgrade options purchased by the purchaser (column 5, lines 6-28).

Claim 12. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) wherein the step of displaying a plurality of icons comprises displaying floor plan (column 6, lines 7-27).

Claim 13. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) wherein the floor plan and the icons are displayed as part of a web page (compatible to HTML and/or JAVA: column 7, lines 47-61).

Claim 14. The method as recited in Claim 1, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) wherein the building comprises a home (column 5, lines 12-14).

Claim 15. A system for specifying upgrade options (column 6, lines 30-35) for a building, the system comprising: a scanner for scanning floor plans (column 3, lines 57-59); a computer in communication with the scanner, the computer having a monitor (column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3); and wherein the computer is configured to display a plurality of icons representative of upgrade options while simultaneously displaying a scanned floor plan (column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16), the computer being further configured to allow selected icons to be placed at desired locations upon the displayed floor plan, and wherein the floor plan is automatically updated to incorporate the upgrade options represented by the selected icons (column 6, lines 6-65) .

Claim 16. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines

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6-65) further comprising a plurality of digitized floor plans (column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively) stored for use by the computer.

Claim 18. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to display the icons in a toolbox, and to place the icons by voice recognition and/or by dragging and dropping icons (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 19. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to facilitate adding a text comment to an icon (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 20. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to facilitate compiling of a list of selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 34-65).

Claim 21. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to facilitate compiling of a list of selected upgrade options and prices for the selected upgrade (column 5, lines 51-54; column 6, lines 34-65) options.

Claim 22. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to calculate a total price for the selected upgrade (column 5, lines 51-54; column 6, lines 34-65) options.

Claim 24. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to form a database of purchaser information (column 7, lines 47-61 with figure 13).

Claim 25. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines

6-65) wherein the computer is configured to form a database of purchaser information, the database comprising the name of the purchaser and the upgrade options purchased by the purchaser (column 5, lines 6-28).

Claim 26. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to display only those icons which are representative of upgrade options that are available for the displayed floor plan (column 6, lines 7-27).

Claim 27. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to display the floor plan and the icons as part of a web page (compatible to HTML and/or JAVA: column 7, lines 47-61).

Claim 28. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the new building comprises a home (column 5, lines 12-14).

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Claim 29. A system for specifying upgrade options (column 6, lines 30-35) for a new building, the system comprising; a plurality of digitized floor plans (column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively); a computer having a monitor for displaying the floor plans (column 8, lines 48-67); and wherein the computer is configured to display a plurality of icons representative of upgrade options while simultaneously displaying a selected one of the digitized floor plans (column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively), the computer being further configured to allow selected icons to be placed at desired upon the scanned floor plan (column 8, lines 6-53), such as by voice recognition and/or by dragging and dropping icons, and wherein the selected one of the digitized floor plans (column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively) is automatically updated to incorporate upgrade options (column 6, lines 6-50) represented by the selected icons.

Claim 30. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53); wherein the digitized floor plans comprise scanned floor plans (column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively).

Claim 31. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer

is configured to display only those icons which represent upgrades that are available for a floor plan is currently being displayed (column 6, lines 6-65).

Claim 32. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) further comprising a toolbox within which the icons are displayed upon the monitor (figure 15 with column 8, lines 23-52).

Claim 34. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer is configured to facilitate adding a text comment to an icon (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 35. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer is configured to compile a list of selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 34-65).

Claim 36. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer

is configured to compile a list of selected upgrade options and prices for the selected upgrade options (column 5, lines 51-54).

Claim 39. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer is configured to form a database of purchaser information (column 5, lines 6-28).

Claim 40. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer is configured to form a database of purchaser information (figure 3 with columns 5-6, lines 42-67 and 1-6), the database comprising the name of the purchaser and the upgrade options (column 6, lines 33-50) purchased by the purchaser.

Claim 41. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the floor plan and the icons are displayed as part of a web page (compatible to HTML and/or JAVA: column 7, lines 47-61).

Claim 42. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the new building comprises a home (column 5, lines 12-14).

Claim 43. A computer usable medium having computer readable code (column 10, lines 20-27) embodied therein, the computer readable program code being executable to perform the steps of: displaying a floor plan upon a monitor (column 8, lines 45-60); displaying a plurality of icons representative of a corresponding plurality of upgrade options upon the monitor, (column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively) the icons being displayed simultaneously with floor plan; and facilitating selection of desired upgrade options and facilitating designation of where the selected upgrade options are to be placed in a building by placing the icons at corresponding locations upon the displayed floor plan, (column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively) such as by voice recognition and/or by dragging and dropping icons, (column 4, lines 61-65) wherein the floor plan is automatically updated to incorporate the desired upgrade options (column 6, lines 7-65).

Claim 44. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the

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step of displaying a floor plan comprises displaying a scanned image of a floor plan (column 8, lines 48-52 with figure 20).

Claim 45. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is further executed to facilitating scanning of a floor plan (column 8, lines 48-52 with figure 20 and column 10, lines 20-27).

Claim 46. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the step of displaying a plurality of icons comprises displaying a plurality of icons in a toolbox (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 47. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is executable to add a text comment to an icon (column 4, lines 61-65).

Claim 48. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is executable to compile a list of selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 34-65).

Claim 49. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is further executed to compile a list of selected upgrade options prices for the selected upgrade options (column 6, lines 34-65).

Claim 52. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is further executable to form a database of purchaser information (column 7, lines 47-61 with figure 13).

Claim 53. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is further executable to form a database (column 10,

lines 20-43) comprising the name of the purchaser and the upgrade options purchased by the purchaser (column 5, lines 6-28).

Claim 54. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the step of displaying a plurality of options comprises displaying only those options which are available for the displayed floor plan (column 6, lines 7-27).

Claim 55. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the steps of displaying the floor plan and displaying the icons comprise displaying a web page (compatible to HTML and/or JAVA: column 7, lines 47-61).

Claim 56. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the building comprises a home (column 5, lines 12-14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

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1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
6. Claims 3, 9,17,23,33,37,38,50,51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable by Blumberg et al. (U.S. Patent 6,496,776 (2002)), in view of Brown (U.S. Patent 5,794,216 (1998)). Blumberg et al. teaches a method and apparatus whereby an individual is able to readily obtain location-centric information about specific physical location via a wireless device with the ability to calculate real estate transactions but; but doesn't teach the specific particulars involved in process of real estate. Brown teaches a device for storing information about a plurality of houses, for access by an application program executed on a computer or other programmable apparatus (abstract). At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Brown by Blumberg et al. since it would be advantageous for a realtor to have access to a plurality of property particulars in a mobile device so both the

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customer and the realtor can focus on a particular type of house without physically searching a plurality of neighborhoods.

Claim 3. The method recited in Claim 1 (column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50), wherein the second computer comprises at least one of a laptop computer, a palm computer, a pen base computer, a desk top computer (column 3, lines 47-51) and any wireless network computer (Blumberg: columns 7-8, lines 50-67, 1-5, respectively).

Claim 9. The method as recited in Claim 1, (Brown: column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59, column 6, lines 33-50) further comprising the step of calculating a total price (Blumberg: column 9, lines 34-40) for the building, including selected upgrade options.

Claim 17. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (Brown: column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer comprises at least one of a laptop computer, a palm computer, a pen base computer, a desk top computer (Brown: column 3, lines 47-51) and any wireless network computer (Blumberg: columns 7-8, lines 50-67, 1-5, respectively).

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Claim 23. The system for specifying upgrade options for a new building as recited in claim 15, (Brown: column 6, lines 30-35; column 3, lines 57-59; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 3, lines 42-65 with figures 1-3; column 6, lines 7-16; column 6, lines 6-65) wherein the computer is configured to calculate a total price for the building, including upgrade options.

Claim 33. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (Brown: column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (Brown: column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) the computer comprises at least one of a laptop computer, a palm computer, a desk top computer (Brown: column 3, lines 47-51) and any wireless network computer (Blumberg: columns 7-8, lines 50-67, 1-5, respectively).

Claim 37. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (Brown: column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (Brown: column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer is configured to calculate a total price (Blumberg: column 9, lines 34-40) for the selected upgrade options.

Claim 38. A system for specifying upgrade options for a new building (Brown: column 5, lines 12-14) as recited in claim 29, (column 6, lines 30-35; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively column 8, lines 6-53) wherein the computer

is configured to calculate a total price (Blumberg: column 9, lines 34-40) for the building, including the upgrade options.

Claim 50. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (Brown: column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is further executable to calculate a total price (Blumberg: column 9, lines 34-40) for the selected upgrade options.

Claim 51. The computer useable media as recited in claim 43, (Brown: column 10, lines 20-27; column 8, lines 45-60; column 8, lines 48-67; column 1, lines 21-25 with columns 4 & 5, lines 66-67, 1-6, respectively; column 4, lines 61-65; column 6, lines 7-65) wherein the computer readable program code is further executable to calculate a total price (Blumberg: column 9, lines 34-40) for the building, including selected upgrade options.

7. Claims 57-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable by Ryan et al., (U.S. Patent 5,673,402 (1997)), in view of Brown (U.S. Patent 5,794,216 (1998)). Ryan et al. teaches a computerized process capable of merging entered stored data with predetermined text data to compile into an output embodying an illustration of life insurance in conjunction with a mortgage for the home buyer (abstract); but doesn't teach details of the real estate process. Brown teaches a device for storing information

about a plurality of houses, for access by an application program executed on a computer or other programmable apparatus (abstract). At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Brown by Ryan et al. so as to add home owner's insurance as part into the final selling price.

Claim 57. The information management method performed by a computer hosted application program (Ryan: title), which facilitates a plurality of business process associated with a real estate transaction (Ryan: column 18, lines 1-5 with Brown: columns 1-2, lines 51-67 and 1-40), comprising the steps of: providing information relating to at least a graphical definition of a real estate entity in a database (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10); providing information relating to demographic indicia of a buyer in said database (Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-6, respectively); providing information relating to a plurality of customization options available for said real estate entity, in said database (Brown: column 6, lines 7-65); linking the graphical definition information with the buyer demographic indicia and the customization options (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10); displaying the graphical definition (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10); choosing customization options from the database; and associating the customization options with locations defined within the graphical definition to thereby define a customized graphical definition (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10).

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Claim 58. The information management method according to claim 57, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising: associating a cost index with a base version of the real estate entity; associating a cost with each respective one of the plurality of customization options; and summing the cost indexes of the customization chosen from the database with the cost index of the real estate entity.

Claim 59. The information management method according to claim 57, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising: formatting the summed cost indices in accordance with a financial transaction software overlay; and providing the formatted summed cost indices to a financial institution.

Claim 60. The information management method according to claim 57, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) wherein the database is a relational database and wherein the display the graphical definition step and the choosing customization options step is performed by a user through a graphical user interface.

Claim 61. The information management method according to claim 59, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising: storing the customized graphical definition; forwarding a copy of the stored graphical definition to a

construction entity to thereby provide a customized construction plan containing customization options selected and located by a user.

Claim 62. The information management method according to claim 59, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising: providing a set of statistical analysis software overlay applications; performing statistical analysis (Ryan: column 32, lines 15-24) on database elements in accordance with the set of statistical software overlay applications; and generating a set of statistical analysis reports (Ryan: column 32, lines 15-24) linking at least demographic indicia with customized graphical definitions and cost indicia (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43).

Claim 63. An information management system, of the type including a computer hosted application program, (Ryan: title) which facilitates a plurality of business process associated with a real estate transaction, (Ryan: column 18, lines 1-5 with Brown: columns 1-2, lines 51-67 and 1-40) the system comprising: at least a computer, having a graphical display and a memory storage area (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10); an application program including a relational database (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10); a first database portion including at least a graphical definition of a real estate entity (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10); a second database portion including demographic indicia related to individual ones of a plurality of buyers; a third database portion including information relating to a plurality of customization options (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10) available for said

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real estate entity; relation definition linking graphical definition with the buyer demographic indicia (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43) and the customization options; a graphical user interface including a graphical display capability; and wherein a user chooses customization options from the database and associates the customization options with locations defined within the graphical definition to thereby define a customized graphical definition (Brown: column 5, lines 42-67 with figures 3-10).

Claim 64. The information management system according to claim 62, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising: a first cost index associated with a base version of the real estate entity; a multiplicity of cost indexes, each associated with a respective one of the plurality of customization options; and a summing subroutine for summing the cost indexes (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43) of the customization options chosen from the database with cost index (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43) of the real estate entity.

Claim 65. The information management system according to claim 63, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising: a financial transaction software overlay, defined by a financial institution; and a formatting engine, the engine formatting the summed cost indices (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43) in accordance with financial transaction software overlay, wherein the formatted summed cost indices (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43) are transmitted to the financial institution defining the software overlay.

Claim 66. The information management system according to claim 63, (Ryan: title; Brown: columns 5-6, lines 40-67 and 1-50, respectively) further comprising a set of statistical analysis software overlay applications, the applications, wherein the applications generate a set of statistical analysis reports linking at least demographic indicia with customized graphical definitions and cost indicia (Ryan: column 28, lines 28-43).

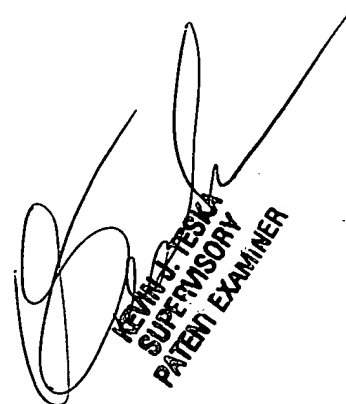
Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm) or contact Supervisor Mr. Kevin Teska at (571) 272-3716. Fax number is 571-273-3715

Any inquires of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose phone number is (571) 272-1400

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